Part III

H^{∞} Theory

In this part of the book we discuss the general optimization problem OPT, which is the main mathematical tool on which our control design method is based. The discussion is restricted to scalar valued analytic functions. In control applications this corresponds to the SISO case.

In Chapter 9 the mathematical problem OPT is formulated, and its relevance to Control is treated. We introduce performance functions and sublevel sets of a performance function.

In Chapter 10 we give a test for determining if a given function is a solution to OPT. This one simple characterization of optima is the key to understanding OPT both conceptually and numerically. This test has a beautiful graphical interpretation that is also easy to implement on a computer.

Chapter 11 contains background facts on analytic functions and lists three fundamental properties of analytic functions, which every control engineer should know.

Chapter 12 gives the proof of the characterization given in Chapter 10 of solutions to OPT. The proof follows quickly from the three basic properties listed in Chapter 3.

Chapter 13 concerns computations of solutions to OPT. We begin with computer diagnostics, follow with a sample computer run, and then we discuss an algorithm for finding solutions.

Chapter 9

H^∞-Optimization and Control

9.1 The problem OPT

Let X be a subset of the complex plane C, and let $f : X \to C$ be a continuous function. The function f is said to be

- *bounded* (uniformly) if there exists $m > 0$ such that $|f(s)| < m$ for all $s \in X$. The symbol $\sup_{s \in X} |f(s)|$ denotes the smallest of such m.
- *real* (on the real axis) if it satisfies[1] $f(s) = \overline{f(\overline{s})}$.
- *analytic* if it can be expanded as a power series about any point s_0 in the interior of X and convergent in some (possibly small) disk centered at s_0.

We denote with A_{RHP} the set of all functions $f(s)$ that are real, bounded and continuous in the closed Right–Half–Plane ($R.H.P.$), and that are *analytic* on the open $R.H.P.$ Therefore, $f(j\omega)$ is a bounded, continuous and real function of ω, for any $f(s) \in A_{RHP}$. The set A_{RHP} is a (real) vector space with the usual properties of addition

$$(f + g)(s) = f(s) + g(s)$$

and scalar multiplication

$$(\alpha f)(s) = \alpha f(s), \quad (\forall \alpha \in R)$$

[1]This definition makes sense only for sets X that are symmetric about the x-axis.

It is well known from the theory of analytic functions that an f continuous on a closed set and analytic on the interior of the set achieves the maximum modulus on the boundary of the set. As a consequence of this we have that any f in A_{RHP} satisfies

$$\sup_{\omega \in R} |f(j\omega)| = \sup_{s \in RHP} |f(s)|$$

A positive function of $\omega \in \mathbf{R}$ and $z \in C$ is called a *performance function*. We will use the notation $\Gamma(\omega, z)$ to denote a performance function. A performance function Γ that satisfies

$$\Gamma(\omega, z) = \Gamma(-\omega, \bar{z}) \tag{9.1}$$

is said to be *real symmetric*. Performance functions that arise from engineering applications are real symmetric, consequently all the performance functions considered in this book are real symmetric. So from now on, by the word "performance" what we really mean is "real symmetric performance".

The main optimization problem we consider[2] is,

OPT Given a performance function $\Gamma(\omega, z)$, find $\gamma^* \geq 0$ and f^* in A_{RHP} such that

$$\gamma^* = \inf_{f \in A_{RHP}} \sup_{\omega} \Gamma(\omega, f(j\omega)) = \sup_{\omega} \Gamma(\omega, f^*(j\omega)).$$

We will refer to the function f^* in the statement of OPT as a *solution* or *minimizer*, and refer to γ^* as the *optimal value*. Solutions f^* to OPT do not always exist in A_{RHP}, however for many performance functions they do (see Section 10.4).

9.2 The fundamental H^∞ problem of control

The OPT problem is central to the design of a system where specifications are given in the frequency domain and where stability is a key issue. Suppose that our objective is to design a linear, time invariant system in the frequency domain description, with stability a major consideration. Part of the system is given and we are forced to use (called the plant), and another part f we get to choose (designable part) (see Fig. 1). The stipulation that the designable part of the circuit be stable can be restated as f having no poles in the right half plane.

[2] As stated here, OPT corresponds to SISO system design. The case MIMO leads to OPT with admissible functions $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, \ldots, f_N)$, with each $f_\ell \in A_{RHP}$. See Chapter 15.